Advisory Board of Ireland Business Partnerships

Activity Plan
2007-2008

Message from the Chair

As Chair of the Advisory Board of Ireland Business Partnerships **(IBP),** I am pleased to present the Board's **2007-2008** Activity Plan. In accordance with the Transparency and Accountability Act, this activity plan was prepared under the direction of the Board which is accountable for the achievement of the goals and objectives outlined therein.

Sincerely,

HON. **TREVOR** TAYLOR
Minister
MHA, The Straits and White Bay North

Chair, Ireland Business Partnerships

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Overview of the Advisory Board and Ireland Business Partnerships

Ireland Business Partnerships (IBP) was established in 1997 as a public/private partnership between the private sector and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. The organization was established in response to the Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Government of Ireland in 1996.

In 2004, Premier Williams and Irish Taoiseach (Prime Minister) Bertie Ahern re-signed the MoU between the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and Ireland reaffirming the relationship. In this same year, Government moved IBP into the Department of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development (INTRD).

INTRD provides Ireland Business Partnerships with two staff positions, an Executive Director and an Industrial Development Officer. The Department also provides IBP with its budget allocation.

A volunteer Advisory Board, appointed by the Premier, advises IBP on strategic directions and provides policy advice. The Board is currently comprised of 18 individuals with a variety of backgrounds from various regions of the province. The board meets quarterly, with various sub-committees meeting regularly to work on specific priority areas.

Mandate

The mandate of the Ireland Business Partnerships Advisory Board is to:

- Assist the Department of Innovation, Trade and Rural development with preparing a strategic work plan for the Ireland Business Partnerships;
- Monitor the implementation of the strategic work plan;
- Assist the Department with partnership initiatives; and
- Report annually to the Premier and to the public on progress of the strategic work plan and results attained

Values

The core values explain the character of the organization we promote and the action statements guide behaviour. The core values of the Department of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development, which also guide the behaviour of the Advisory Board of Ireland Business Partnerships are as follows:

Effectiveness	Each person makes informed decisions in a timely and professional manner.
Responsiveness	Each person builds relationships of trust and collaboration with other Board members
Cooperativeness	Each person develops and participates in team approaches to advancing IBP priorities.
Communication	Each person takes initiative to promptly share information with Board members in support of the IBP priorities.

Primary Clients

The Board's primary responsibility is to the Ireland Business Partnerships and to the Department of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development by providing policy advice and guidance in areas determined to be of strategic priority for IBP.

Vision

The vision of the Department of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development is of "a diversified, competitive economy with productive and prosperous people in all regions of the province".

The work of the Advisory Board supports the vision of the Department of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development. By providing guidance to the Ireland Business Partnerships, the Board guides IBP toward potential economic development opportunities with Ireland thereby fostering cultural and historic links which serve as an asset in shaping economic policy.

Mission

The mission statement identifies the priority focus area of the Minister over the next two planning cycles. It represents the key longer-term result that the Minister and the Board will work towards to achieve the strategic directions of Government.

The mission of the Department of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development is as follows:

> By 2011, the Department of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development will "have stimulated economic and business development to foster regional and provincial prosperity."

The Board contributes to the Department's mission of stimulating economic and business development by advising IBP on strategic directions and providing policy advice. IBP engages in economic and cultural development initiatives that generate wealth and build capacity through partnerships with government, industry, and businesses both provincially and with Ireland.

Goals

The Advisory Board of the Ireland Business Partnerships assists the Department of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development in partnerships initiatives and provides advice on economic and policy issues. In addition, the Board assists the Department with preparing an annual strategic work plan for the Ireland Business Partnerships. The Board monitors the implementation of this plan and reports annually to the Premier and to the public on progress of the plan and results attained

In consideration of Government's strategic directions as well as the mandate and financial resources of the Advisory Board and of Ireland Business Partnerships, the following areas have been identified as the Advisory Board's key priorities for the upcoming year.

Development of a strategic work plan for IBP

Goal 1
By March 31, 2008, the Board will have helped develop a strategic work plan for IBP for the upcoming year.

Measure

Supported development of strategic work plan

Indicators

- The Board, and its three primary sub-committees (Business, Education, and Culture) supported the development of the strategic work plan by working with the Executive Director and staff to identify specific initiatives to be developed and undertaken in each of the three areas.

Reporting on work plan results

Goal 2
By March 31, 2008, the Board will have publicly reported on the results of the work plan from the previous fiscal year.

Measure
Results reported

Indicators

- The results are publicly reported by the creation of an annual report.

Advise on economic and policy issues as they relate to the advancement of IBP

Goal 3
By March 31, 2008, the Board will have provided guidance to the Ireland Business Partnerships toward potential economic development opportunities with Ireland.

Measure
Provided guidance

Indicators

- The Board provided guidance to IBP staff by way of regular Advisory Board meetings and regular themed sub-committee meeting, focusing on identifying and executing on opportunities in business, education and culture.

Appendix

Appendix A

Strategic Directions

Strategic directions are the articulation of desired physical, social and or economic outcomes and normally require action by more than one government entity. These directions are normally communicated by government through platform documents, Throne and Budget speeches, policy documents, and other communiqués. The *Transparency and Accountability Act* requires departments and public bodies to take into account these strategic directions in the preparation of their performance-based plans. This action will facilitate the integration of planning practices across government and will ensure that all entities are moving forward on key commitments.

A full list of Strategic Directions for the Department of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development can be found in the Department's Strategic Plan. To view a copy, please visit http://www.gov.nl.ca/intrd/strategicplan.htm.

The strategic direction that relates to the Board of Ireland Business Partnerships is provided below. Given its mandate, the Corporation plays a direct role in two components of this direction. As indicated through the following table, these components are addressed in the Corporation's activity plan, while the other components are dealt with by other entities reporting to the Minister.

Title: **Business Promotion, Trade and Investment Development**
Outcome: **Increased business promotion, trade and development**

Components of Strategic Direction	This direction is:	
	addressed in the entity's activity plan	applicable to other entities reporting to the Minister
Trade Policy	X	
Export Development	X	

Investment Development		**X**
Enterprising Culture		**X**